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Letter dated 29 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the statement by H.E. Mr. Riaz Al-Qeissi, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Iraq, in the 4336th (resumed) meeting of the Security Council on the situation between Iraq and Kuwait on 28 June 2001, in which he referred to the goal of establishing in the Middle East a zone free from weapons of mass destruction and urged the Council to take action with a view to disarming Iran of the said weapons.

I would like to place on record the total rejection by my Government of the baseless allegations contained in the said statement. It is ironic, indeed, that an official of a Government that has extensively resorted to the use of chemical weapons in the 1980s, and has never spared any efforts in having access to weapons of mass destruction comes up with advice, in the very same field, for the Council against my country, which has not only been the victim of documented Iraqi resort to chemical weapons, but has also meticulously abided by all its obligations in the field of elimination and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The use by the Iraqi forces of chemical weapons, in contravention of the 1925 Geneva Protocol, against the Iranian servicemen and civilians in the 1980s is widely known and has been condemned by the international community. Moreover, the images of those innocent Iraqi nationals, in the Iraqi city of Halabcha, gassed to death by their own armed forces could never be wiped out from the memory of the world's public opinion, incidents that are recorded, among others, in Security Council resolution 612 (1988) and 620 (1988) as well. Nor could members of the international community, especially Iraq's neighbouring countries, ever be oblivious to evidences uncovered by the United Nations Special Commission in the 1990s, which pointed explicitly to the extent of the Iraqi non-conventional arms programmes. The declaration, on numerous occasions, of the production, development and stockpiling of huge amounts of biological and chemical weapons by the Government of Iraq and mounting them on warheads are also fully recorded.

As to the intention of the Islamic Republic of Iran, let it suffice to recall that, unlike Iraq, Iran is a party to all international regimes on weapons of mass destruction. It has signed, ratified and faithfully complied with the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention. Iran has also signed the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. Iran's facilities are regularly inspected, as provided for by the various disarmament treaties and

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conventions, by appropriate international authorities, and the reports that have followed all these inspections testify to full compliance with the obligations of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Regrettably, at the same time, it is a matter of grave concern for us and other countries in our neighbourhood that Iraq still continues to refrain from even signing the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and has violated the 1925 Geneva Protocol on Chemical Weapons.

The international community should, indeed, take appropriate measures to ensure that Iraq makes a long-term legally binding undertaking by becoming a party to the relevant international agreements. It is also beneficial to recall that the Islamic Republic of Iran has always called for the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction, which has been endorsed repeatedly by the General Assembly.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammad Hasan **Fadaifard**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.